

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03

AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 IGA-02 TRSE-00 HEW-02 /076 W

----- 040902

R 040700Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1838

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SPOP/OTRA (GREEN, MARSHALL), RP

SUBJECT: MANILA VISIT OF STATE DEPARTMENT POPULATION COORDINATOR

JAN 23-27

REF: MANILA 1338

1. WE BELIEVE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, POPULATION COORDINATOR, WAS VERY USEFUL ONE FOR US AND OUR POPULATION PROGRAM AND, WE BELIEVE, FOR HIM.

2. SCHEDULE WAS INTENSE AND VARIED. HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT, TALKED WITH NEDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SICAT, SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY ALDABA LIM, OFFICIALS OF POPULATION COMMISSION AND POPULATION CENTER FOUNDATION, VISITED MARY JOHNSTONE HOSPITAL (STERILIZATION PROCEDURES) IN MANILA AND IGLESIA NI CRISTO CHURCH IN IBA, ZAMBALES (VASECTOMIES) AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, IBA (NO PROGRAM; IN FACT DEPT HEALTH HAS NOT IRECTED ANY PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS OR EMERGENCY HOSPITALS EVEN TO BEGIN POPULATION PROGRAMS). IN ADDITION HE HAD THOROUGH BRIEFING ON PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND PROBLEMS FROM AID AND ON BROADER POLITICAL AND POLICY ASPECTS FROM EMBASSY. SCHEDULE PROVIDED EXCELLENT CROSS

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SECTION OF THEORY AND PRACTICE OF POPULATION PROGRAM IN

PHILIPPINES.

3. VISIT ALSO PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN TO TELL PRESIDENT AND OTHER GOP OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH POPULATION THE IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO PROGRAM IN PHILIPPINES. HE NOTED (A) FACT THAT PHILIPPINES HAS LARGEST POPULATION PROGRAM AND IS LARGEST RECIPIENT OF USAID POPULATION FUNDS IN WORLD; (B) SUCCESS OF PHILIPPINE PROGRAM CAN HAVE IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION EFFECT ON SIMILAR PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE IN WORLD; (C) PROGRESS IN PHILIPPINE PROGRAM WOULD BE HELPFUL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM HERE AND ELSEWHERE. IN THIS CONTEXT, AMBASSADOR GREEN NOTED THAT PHILIPPINE PROGRAM HAD REACHED PLATEAU AND THAT ALTHOUGH 2.6 - 2.8 PERCENT GROWTH RATE ENCOURAGING, THE PRESENT PLATEAU COULD SIGNAL BEGINNING OF REGRESSION. AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE TIMELY AND WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE EFFECT ON PHILIPPINE PROGRAM.

SULLIVAN

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